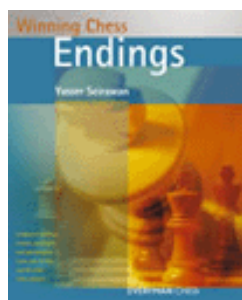




COLUMNISTS

Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan



Winning Chess Endings

by Yasser Seirawan

Yasser Annotates:

Karpov - Timman, Jarkata (16) 1993

Anatoly Karpov - Jan Timman

Jakarta (16) 1993

King's Indian Sämisch [E81]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7

The King's Indian Defense is one of the most uncompromising defenses against 1.d4. It is almost a guarantee of a hard fight.

4.e4 d6 5.f3

The Sämisch variation, the sharpest choice against the King's Indian Defense.

5...O-O 6.Be3 Nbd7

This old move is enjoying a rebirth since Kasparov's victory over Karpov in Linares 1993.

7.Qd2 c5

Kasparov preferred 7...e5 in his fight for the center. The text has the aim of inducing d4-d5 and transposing into a Benoni: 8.d5 Ne5 9.Bg5 a6 10.f4 Ned7 11.Nf3 b5 leads to razor-sharp play.

8.Nh3?!

A strange move that misplaces the knight in a Maroczy Bind. 8.Nge2 is more common.

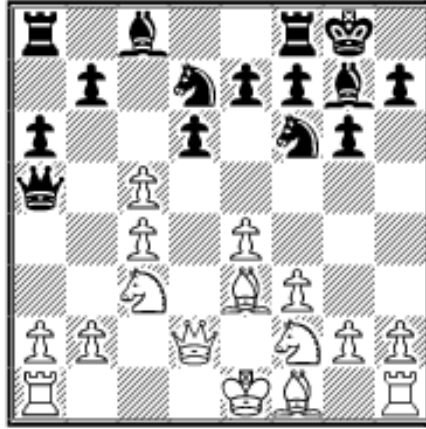
8...Qa5

Perhaps 8...cxd4 9.Bxd4 Qa5 is more precise.

9.Nf2 a6?!

Not a bad move and common enough in positions like these. But to get a good game, Black must play very accurately. Thus 9...cxd4! 10.Bxd4 Ne5 11.Be2 Bd7! 12.O-O Rfc8! 13.b3 a6 and Black has a fully playable Maroczy Bind-type position because of the misplaced f2-knight.

10.dxc5



In order to avoid the above position, Anatoly likely rejected 10.d5 (!?), fearing a quick counterattack against his e4-pawn. 10.d5!? Ne5 11.Be2 Bd7 12.a4 Qb4 is good for Black.

10...Nxc5?

A definite mistake, as the knight is misplaced on c5. Black had to play 10...dxc5, when the pawn structure is balanced. Jan feared that he wouldn't have winning chances in such a position, but the position is quite lively. In the first place Black threatens ...Nd7-e5, intending ...Ne5-c6 in order to occupy the d4-square. Thus 10...dxc5 11.f4 Ne8 gives an equally dangerous position. White has a lot of space, but is underdeveloped. If 12.e5?! f6 13.exf6 Nexf6!? Black is ready for ...e7-e5.

11.Rb1!

Dodging the threatened ...Nc5-b3, while introducing the threat of b2-b4. Black's game is already in crisis. He has no strong central points and no real targets for attack.

11...Qb4

Not a bad move, if it is correctly followed up.

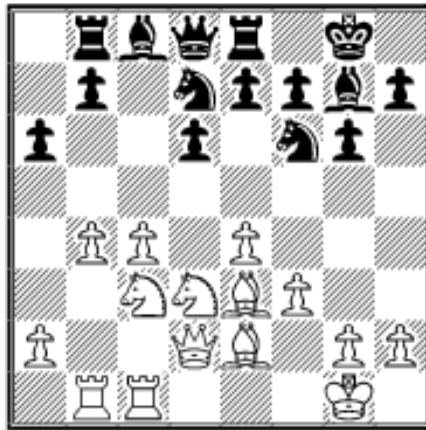
12.Be2 Ncd7?

Capitulation. Black had to make a stand on the queenside with 12...a5, intending ...a5-a4, 13.a3 Qb3. All kinds of horrors threaten the entombed queen, but her capture can be costly. For example, 14.O-O Be6 15.Rfc1 Rfc8 16.Bd1!? Qxc4 17.Nd5 Bxd5 18.Rxc4 Bxc4, White has won Black's queen, but Black has sufficient compensation. White also has ideas based on Nc3-b5 or Nc3-d5 and Rc1-Rc3, but the queen being forced to a2 isn't the end of the world. In any event, if Jan had wanted an enterprising game, this was the way. After the text, Black is routed with hardly a prayer.

13.O-O Re8

What to do? 13...Ne5 14.Rfc1 Nxc4 15.Bxc4 Qxc4 16.Nd5 is winning.

14.Rfc1 Rb8 15.Nd3 Qa5 16.b4 Qd8



Black's opening experiment has backfired horribly. White has an overwhelming position and just needs to open up lines for his better-developed pieces.

17.c5!

An excellent move on which to mount a queenside attack. In order to develop, the d7-knight has to go and White will find himself occupying the

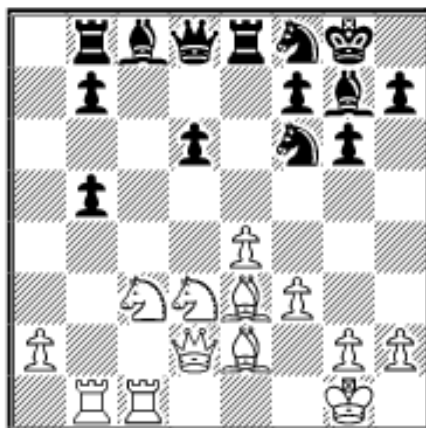
b6-square. Although he isn't material down, Black is positionally and strategically lost.

17...Ndf8 18.b5!

This is even stronger than 18.Nd5 Bd7 19.cxd6 exd6, when White would like to get in b4-b5.

18...axb5 19.cxd6 exd6?

Compromising the integrity of his pawn structure in order to gain time and space for his pieces. Jan didn't like the looks of 19...Qxd6 20.Nxb5!? Qd8 21.a4!? (21.Ba7!? Ra8 22.Qe3) 21...Bd7 22.a5, intending Be3-b6, which shows the value of White's piece activity. With the text, Jan was hoping to shed a pawn to complete his development. Nonetheless, I consider the text a mistake. It gives White a target to gnaw upon. While 19...Qxd6 is no joy ride, Black's defensive chances are better than the text.



20.Nf4!

Without hesitation, White immediately targets the d6-pawn. The white forces are in complete harmony. Black's pieces are in chaos, Black is busted.

**20...Be6 21.Nxb5 d5 22.e5 N6d7
23.Nd6 Nxe5 24.Nxe8 Qxe8**

Black has shed an exchange for a brief respite, but there is no compensation,

the d5-pawn is equally condemned. We now expected Karpov to show us his formidable technical skills.

25.Bb5?

A careless step in the wrong direction. More to the point was 25.Bd4 (25.Ba7 Rd8 26.Rxb7 d4 allows some counter-play) 25...N8d7 26.Rb5 and White goes after Black's crippled pawns, while controlling Black's pieces. The text masks White's attack against the b7-pawn, while misplacing the bishop.

25...Qe7 26.Nxe6

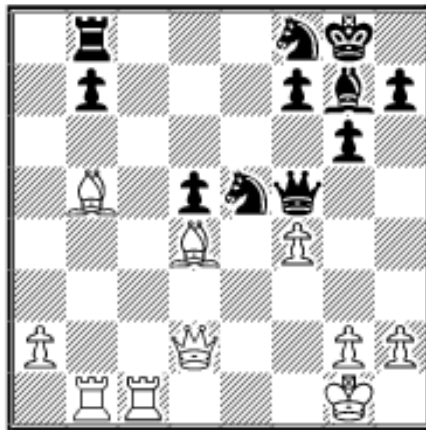
My suspicion is that Karpov had "forgotten" about 26.Nxd5? Nxf3+! 27.gxf3 Bxd5, when the e3-bishop is a problem.

26...Qxe6

Now Black is worming his way back in the game. He even threatens 27...Ne5-c4 28.Bxc4 dxc4 with fair chances to keep his pawn for the exchange. Despite the sudden optimism, Black is still lost.

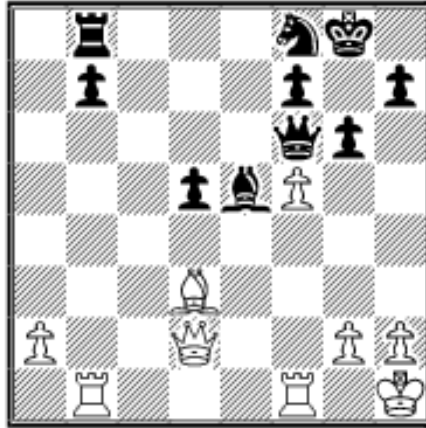
27.Bd4!? Qf5 28.f4?

A tactical oversight. Better was 28.Bf1, menacing Bd4-a7 as well as the capture of the b7-pawn.



The only chance. Black, too, can start an attack, on the dark squares.

32.Rf1!?



White is playing with fire. Perhaps 32.g3 and only then Rc1-f1 was better.

32...Qd6?

Throwing away his best chance of the game. Black had to play 32...Qh4 33.g3 Bxg3 34.Rb4 Qh5 35.Qg2 (35.Be2? Qxh2 mate!) 35...Bc7! 36.Rd4!?, when Jan feared that his queen and king would both be under fire. That may be true, but the loss of

the g-pawn has weakened White's king too.

33.Qb4!

Jettisoning a pawn for a queenless ending is the best way of regaining the initiative.

33...Bxh2 34.Qxd6 Bxd6 35.Rb5!

The game has returned to technical channels with White poised to exert his exchange advantage. Because of the passivity of Black's knight, his drawing chances are slim to none.

35...b6

Black is dreaming of a dark-square blockade with his bishop on c5 and knight on f6.

36.Rxd5 Bc5 37.Bc4!

And this is the next crucial point. White uses the opposite-colored bishops to attack the f7-pawn. Black has no effective counter.

37...Rb7 38.g4 Re7 39.Rd8 Rc7

Black can only wait to see how White improves his grip on the position. Not a very happy circumstance.

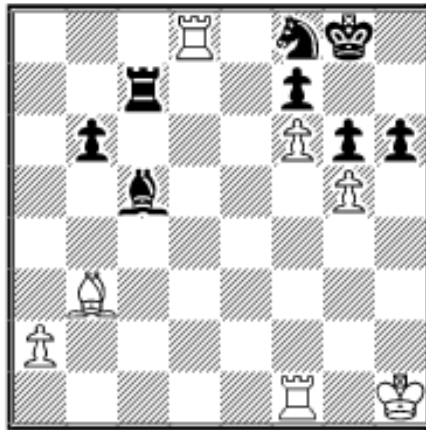
40.Bb3 Kg7 41.f6+ Kg8

Passively awaiting execution, but 41...Kh6 42.Rd5 g5 43.Kg2 Ng6 44.Rh1+ Nh4+ 45.Rxh4+ gxh4 46.Bc2 sets up a mating net.

42.g5

Not clearly required. White can also double rooks on the e-file and play Re8-e7. The text is a good, solid move that fortifies the f6-pawn.

42...h6!



The only chance.

43.gxh6 Kh7 44.Kg2 Kxh6?

While Black is lost, this one walks into a mating net.

45.Rd5?!

Missing 45.Rd3!, when Black can't avoid mate.

45...Kh7 46.Rh1+ Kg8 47.Rd8 Rc6 48.Rf1 Bb4 49.Rf4 Ba3

Black is back to waiting.

50.Re8 Bd6 51.Rg4!

A real killer. Black now faces the surprising Rg4xg6.

51...Kh7 52.Bxf7 Rc2+ 53.Kf3 Kh6 54.Re1!

Karpov is relentless. Black's king has no shelter.

54...Rh2 55.Rd1 Bc5 56.Kg3 Rh5 57.Kg2 Ba3 58.Rd3 Bc5 59.Rdg3 1-0

This was Karpov's most complete performance of the match.



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